

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION POLICY POLICY 99-13

Effective: February 1, 1999

Revised: January 25, 2001

PERFORMING VOLUNTEER ELECTRICAL WORK

Assisting a Householder: RCW 19.28.261 allows a friend, neighbor, relative, or other person (including a certified electrician) to assist a householder, at his/her residence, in the performance of electrical work, on the condition that the person assisting the householder does not accept money or other forms of compensation for the volunteer work.

Assisting other Property Owners: There are no exceptions from the electrical contractor license or electrician certification requirements to allow persons to perform volunteer electrical work for anyone other than a homeowner. As the law is currently written, volunteering for nonprofit organizations such as churches, Habitat for Humanity; senior centers, etc. is not allowed.

Volunteering for these organizations may be allowed under the following guidelines:

A local nonprofit organization, whose members own the building or structure, may solicit a volunteer electrical contractor to oversee the electrical installation. The organizations' members or other persons may volunteer to perform electrical work for the organization, if they are properly certified by the state as electricians or trainees.

The volunteer electrical contractor and its administrator shall be responsible to maintain proper ratio of certified electricians to certified trainees on the jobsite at all times. The electrical contractor shall either provide onsite supervision or designate one of the volunteer electricians as the onsite supervisor.

The electrical contractor shall purchase the electrical work permit, and ensure that the electrical installation is in compliance with the requirements of RCW 19.28, WAC 296-46A, WAC 296-401B, and the currently adopted edition of the National Electrical Code.

Ronald E. Fuller
Chief Electrical Inspector